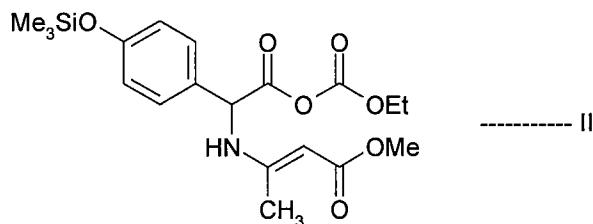
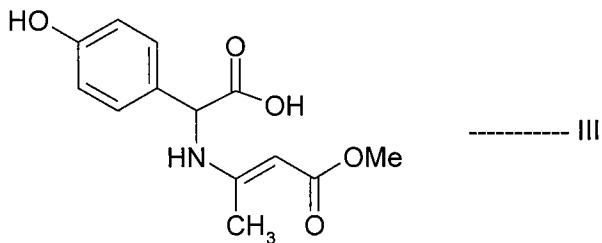


We claim:

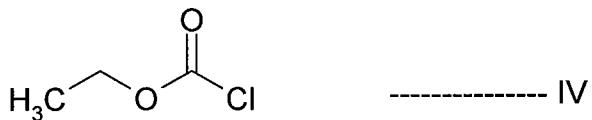
1. A process for preparing silylated mixed anhydride of formula II:



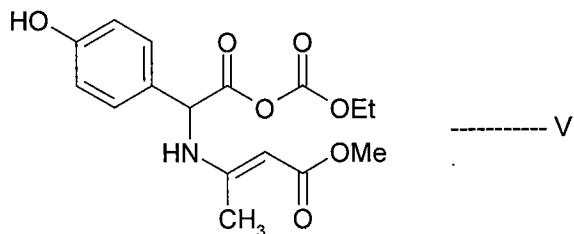
which comprises reacting the compound of formula III or a salt thereof:



with ethyl chloroformate of formula IV:



to obtain mixed anhydride of formula V:



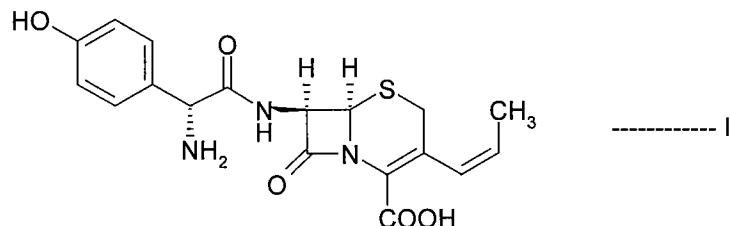
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then silylating the mixed anhydride of formula V obtained above with *N*,*O*-bis(trimethylsilyl)acetamide to obtain the compound of formula II.

2. The process according to claim 1, wherein the mixed anhydride of formula V is prepared by reacting $[R-(Z)]-[4\text{-hydroxy-}\alpha\text{-}[(3\text{-methoxy-}1\text{-methyl-}3\text{-oxo-}1\text{-}$

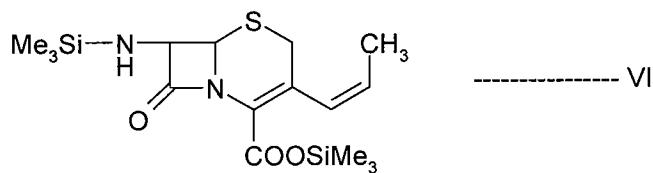
propenyl)amino]]benzeneacetic acid, mono potassium salt (amoxydane salt) with ethyl chloroformate in a chlorinated solvent.

3. The process according to claim 2, wherein the chlorinated solvent is methylene chloride.
- 5 4. The process according to claim 2, wherein the reaction is carried out in the presence of dimethylformamide along with the said chlorinated solvent.
- 5 5. The process according to claims 2 - 4, wherein the catalytic quantities of N-methyl morpholine and methanesulfonic acid are used.
- 10 6. The process according to claim 1, wherein the reaction between the compound of formula III or salt thereof and ethyl chloroformate is carried out below about -20°C.
- 10 7. The process according to claim 6, wherein the reaction is carried out below -40°C.
- 15 8. The process according to claim 1, wherein the silylation of the mixed anhydride is carried out in a chlorinated solvent.
- 15 9. The process according to claim 8, wherein the chlorinated solvent is methylene chloride.
- 20 10. The process for preparing (6R, 7R)-7-[2-amino-2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)acetamido]-3-[(Z)-propenyl]-3-cephem-4-carboxylic acid of formula I (cefprozil) or hydrate; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

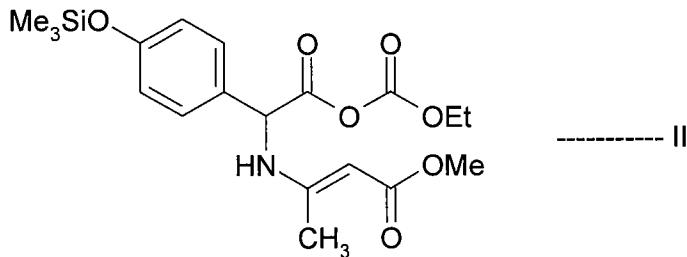


which comprises:

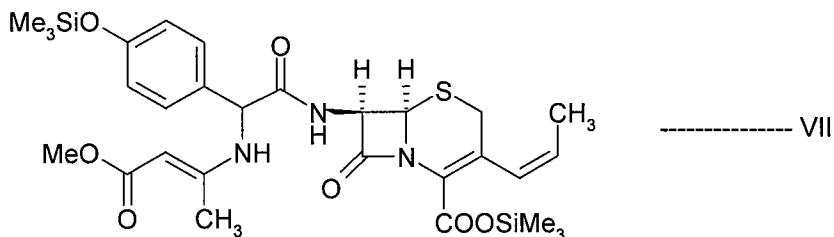
a) acylating the compound formula VI:



with the compound of formula II:



in a chlorinated solvent to obtain a compound of formula VII:



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- b) deprotecting the compound obtained above with an aqueous hydrochloric acid to give cefprozil of formula I;
- c) precipitating cefprozil as dimethylformamide solvate from the reaction mass obtained in step (b) and
- 10 d) converting the solvate of step (c) into cefprozil or cefprozil hydrate; or pharmaceutically acceptable salt.
- 11. The process according to claims 10, wherein the chlorinated solvent is methylene chloride.
- 12. The process according to claims 10 and 11, wherein the solvate is precipitated from the reaction mass at a pH of above 5.5 to 7.0 in the presence of dimethylformamide.
- 15 13. The process according to claims 10-12, wherein cefprozil hydrate is prepared in step (d) by stirring dimethylformamide solvate in water, filtering the de-solvated cefprozil and drying.

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